

(Capsule)

Wilburne house, barns, and tenant house

Any tobacco barn is significant for its ability to tell about the process which was for so many years the mainstay of the Tidewater Culture. These two nearly identical barns, however, are of particular interest for their architectural features. The presence of tilted false plates, cut nails with hand made heads, riven clapboards and feather edged weatherboard, all in a hewn post-and-beam structure, point strongly towards an early 19th Century construction date.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI # 0500975335

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CT-97

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wilburne house, barns, and tenant house.

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Dalrymple Road

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake Beach

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Roland Wilburne

Telephone #: 257-7954

STREET & NUMBER

Dalrymple Road

CITY, TOWN

Chesapeake Beach

VICINITY OF

Maryland, 20732

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CT-97

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There are two barns on the Wilburne farm. Both buildings are older than the house.

One of the remaining barns is in poor condition. It leans badly and the addition to the South end has collapsed. The other is in considerably better condition, although it too shows the stress of many years.

Barn #1: It will be noticed from the attached photograph that there is vertical siding on the north facade (most likely replacements) and horizontal siding on the west facade. Barns with horizontal siding (usually riven clapboards, 24" long 3" wide, feather edged and nailed to studs with cut nails) tend to be older in this area. Each side of the Wilburne barn has different siding. It is assumed that the west is original although it too has many patches. What was the east wall of the original barn is preserved by the shed addition on that side. Here the boards are 8" average width, butt end and feather edged. On some barns, horizontal siding is often overlapped on the ends as well as side edges, and clapboards on the south appear to be hand split and are C. 6" wide and 1/8" thick.

There are at least two shed additions, and they are supported by minimally trimmed trees (most are round and still have bark on them) mortise and tenoned into hand hewn plates.

The degree to which the building is leaning makes measurements approximate, but it appears that the original barn measures 25' by 40' with 14' between the eaves and the ground. It is supported by a frame of hand hewn beams fastened by mortise and tenon with trunnels. Uprights and braces average 8" x 6 1/2" in thickness, foundation sills are 12" x 8 1/2" in thickness. The unusual feature of a tilted false plate has been noted in this barn.

A distinctive feature of this barn is the manner in which doors are hinged. Although the south entrance of the original barn has what appears to be hand made iron strap hinges and a wooden latch, the east door has wooden hinges as well. In this instance, the frame has been augered top and bottom, as has the door, and a wooden peg connects the two providing a pivot. These are batten doors, and the only hardware used in the whole assembly are the cut nails which have double struck heads.

Barn #2: Almost identical to its neighbor on the next hill of the same farm, it too is clad with feather edged weatherboard on the sides and riven clapboards on the ends. It also has shed additions on the east and south facades. Both barns have central passage plans, are ten rooms long with three transverse sills. Both have post-and-beam frames utilizing tilted false plates in the eaves.

This latter feature is significant for several reasons. Because both barns have this feature and because they are the only barns thus far recorded to have tilted false plates they may be viewed as unique and are probably

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Any tobacco barn is significant for its ability to tell about the process which was for so many years the mainstay of the Tidewater Culture. Those two nearly identical barns, however, are of particular interest for their architectural features. The presence of tilted false plates, cut nails with hand made heads, riven clapboards and feather edged weatherboard, all in a hewn post-and-beam structure, point strongly towards an early 19th Century construction date.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carson, C. "The 'Virginia' House in Maryland, " Maryland Historical Magazine, vol No. 2, Swamer 1974.
Glassie, H. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia, Knoxville, Tenn. 1975.
Files of the St. Mary's City Commission
Morrison, H., Early American Architecture, N.Y., 1952.
Nelson, L. "Nail Chronology", A.P.T. Tech. Leaflet #48
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE _____

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____

CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

the work of the same builder. Other features such as siding, nails, etc. support this assumption. The presence of tilted false plates is important for another reason, however, and that concerns the age of the barns.

Tilted false plates are an architectural feature associated with the 18th Century and have been recorded in some of the few 17th Maryland houses (Holly Hill and Sarum). In St. Mary's County, they have been recorded in early 19th Century houses but in only one instance were false plates recorded with cut nails. They have been recorded in the barn at Bloomfield in St. Mary's County C. 1820-1840. It is reasonable to expect sophistication seen in domestic architecture to occur later in barns. It is rule-of-thumb that crudeness of use correlates with crudeness of use correlates with crudeness of construction. Therefore, the presence of tilted false plates in these barns is not proof positive of expected time-lag in technology of thirty or forty years, it seems more likely that these are 19th Century barns. The type of cut nail, however, that is used in both the clapboards and in joining the truss-end to the plate is indicative of an early 19th Century date. The availability of cut nails with cut heads is generally accepted to have occurred after the 1830's and 1840's. According to the APT Bulletin on nail chronology, cut nails with double struck hand made heads are common "C. 1790-Mid 1820's." Nails like those diagramed have been pulled from both of the Wilburne Farm barns.

A further suggestion of a first-quarter 19th Century building date is the description of such a tobacco house provided by the Tatham Essay. In addition to plan and framing, two of the three types of siding mentioned in the 1800 work are present on these barns. The two types of siding Tatham observed on his third basic type of tobacco barn were "clapboards" and "feather-edged plank." Long feather edge plank is on the east side of Barn #1 and both sides of barn #2. Riven clapboards are on the south end of barn #1 and both ends of barn #2.

The conclusion reached through structural analysis conflicts with oral history provided by Mrs. Ruth Wilburne. Mrs. Wilburne is 82 years old, and she recalls that Ben Sewell built barn #1 and he has been dead for 50 years.

Tenant House

On the same property as the two tobacco barns, but some distance away, are a tenant house and a cornhouse. The tenant house has two distinct halves to it, three sections counting the enclosed porch on the east facade of the north section. The exterior covering of the south section is simple overlap clapboards; the south section is covered with vertical boards and battens. The north section is perceived to be the older of the two since it has both hewn sills and joists. While the south wing does have a hewn "summer beam" of sorts the joists appear to be more modern sawn materials. The walls appear to be split logs of various widths.

Evidence of whitewash was observed under the eaves.

The entire structure is elevated off the ground around 12" by piers made of tree stumps.

The house is heated by woodstoves utilizing the flue at either end of the structure.

CORN HOUSE: This structure is in ruins, but it can be seen that it was made of squared logs dovetailed at the corners and laid one upon the other to form a building 14' long, 7' high (to the eaves) and about 9' wide. The logs have about four or five inch spaces between them. There are no windows and just one door in the west end. This same end has vertical siding covering it. Boards the width and thickness of conventional battens have been nailed onto the inside walls in a vertical pattern as is common to corn houses.

The most unusual aspect of this construction is that the "dovetail" joints are actually only partial dovetails. The top edge of each log end and the bottom of the log placed on it are angled for the dovetail. Every other joint, however, is a simple lap joint (see photo.)

MAIN DWELLING:

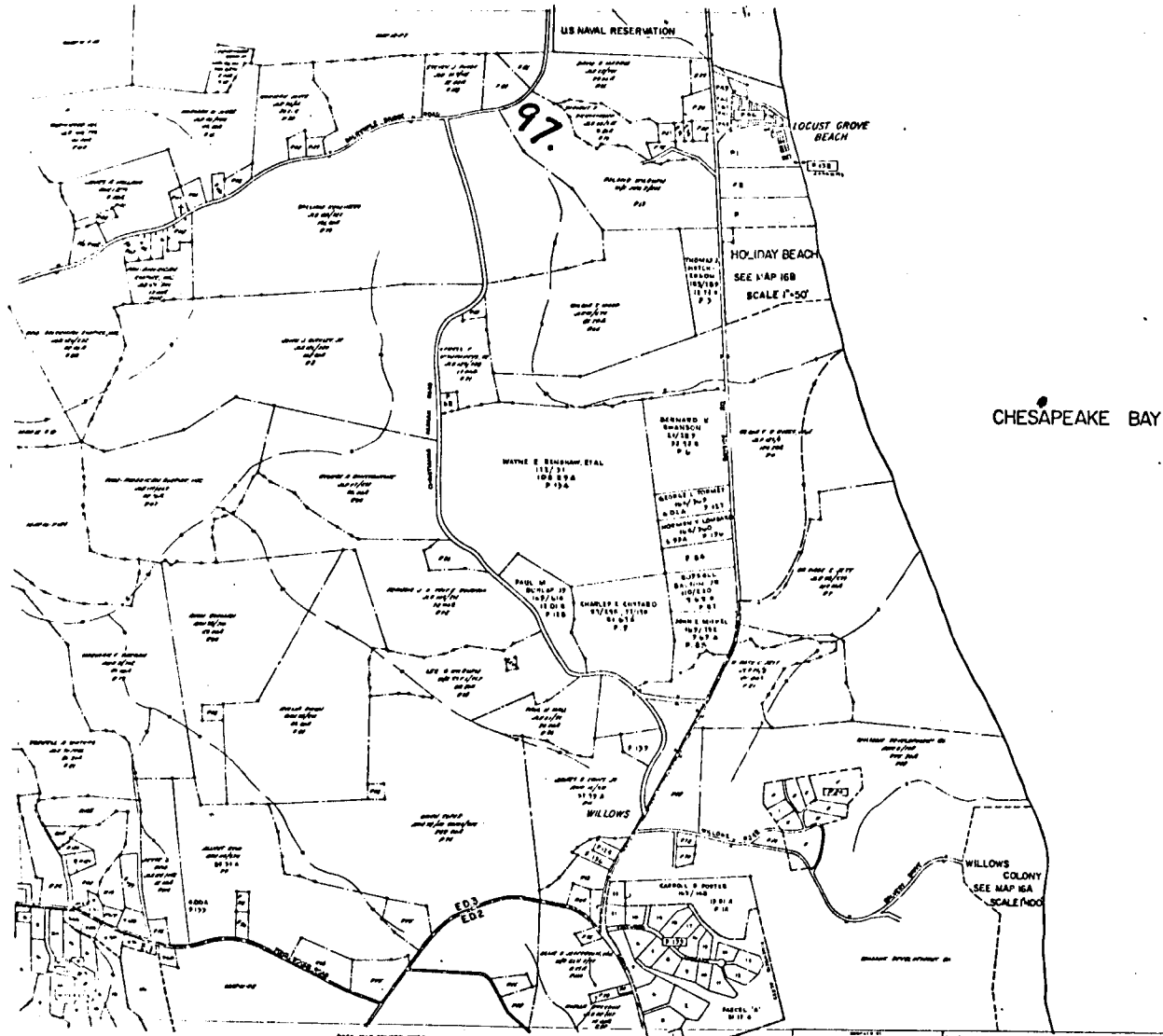
According to Mrs. Wilburne who still lives in the house, her father-in-law had it built around 1923-1924. It is not unlike other farmhouses in the area and of that period in that it documents the vitality of Victorian design almost a decade after World War I. The odd-bay cross gable facade featuring a two-sided gingerbread porch constitutes a tradition in American domestic architecture which lasted through the entire second half of the 19th Century and the first quarter of the 20th Century at least in this area.

Bibliography Cont.

Tatham, W., An Historical and Practical Essay on the Culture and Commerce of Tobacco, London, 1800.

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Willburne Farm

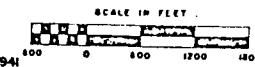


COMPUTED MAP DIVISION 1961
BY DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION

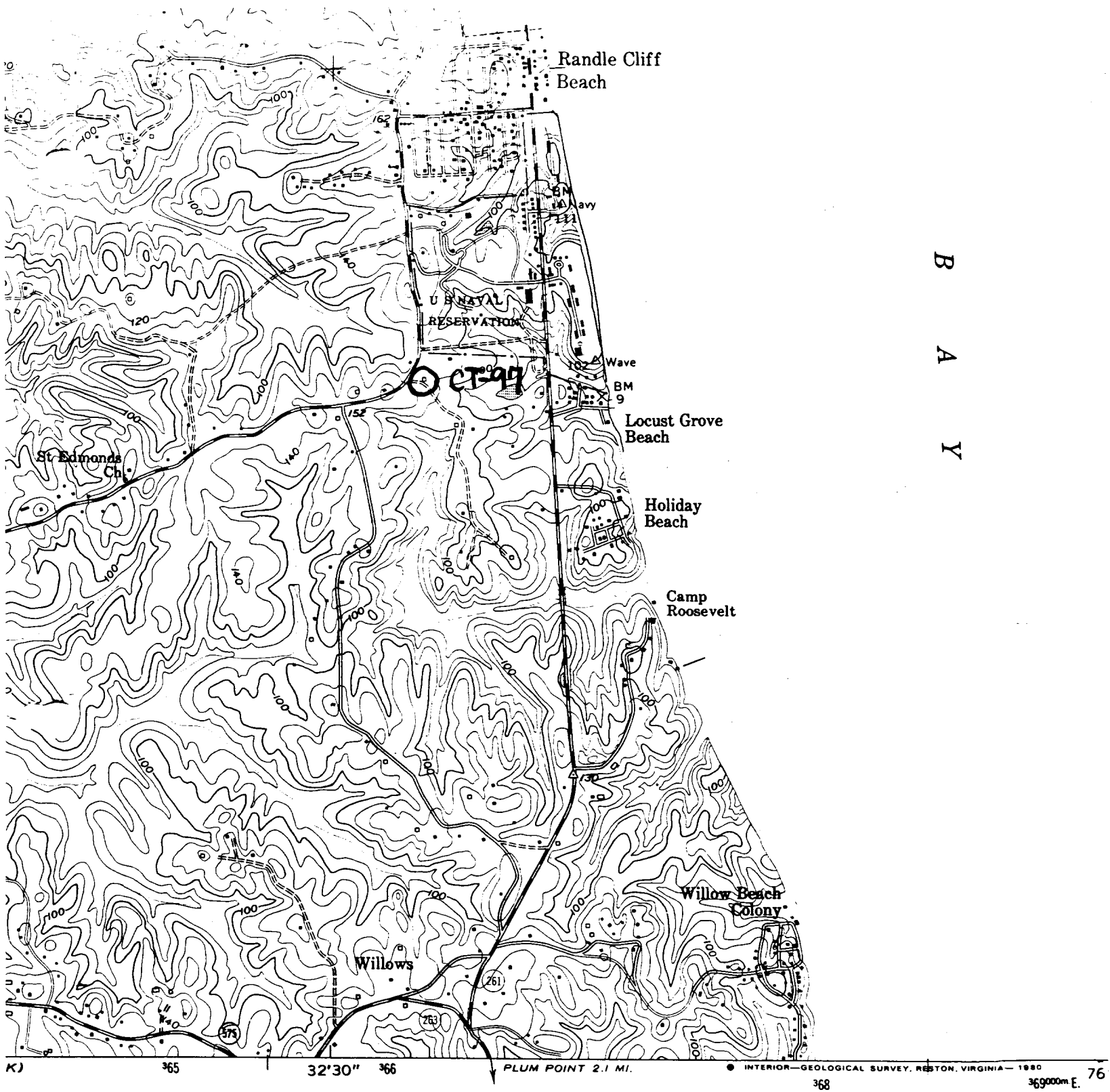
BASE MAP CONSTRUCTED
FROM 1958
PLANIMETERED BY
MAP DIVISION 1-12-75

DEPT. OF ASSESSMENTS & TAXATION
MAP DIVISION
REVISIONS TO
REVISED TO
1-12-75

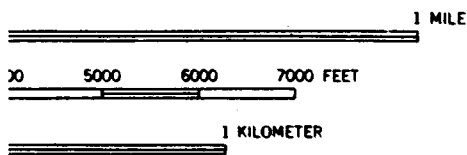
PROPERTY LINE
SHOWS DIVISION BOUNDARY
CONTAINING OWNERSHIP
PARCEL NUMBER
SCALE: 1" = 800'
MAP NO. 16



NOT TO SCALE
CALVERT COUNTY 926-288
MAP NO. 16

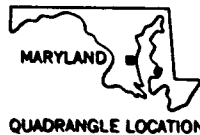


B
A
Y



FE
JM 929
JM 1/2 MEAN LOW WATER
UMS IS VARIABLE
LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
CHESAPEAKE BEACH

ACCURACY STANDARDS
RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
IBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty _____ Light-duty _____
Medium-duty _____ Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U. S. Route State Route

NORTH BEACH, MD.

N3837.5—W7630/7.5

1953
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 5661 II NE—SERIES V833



CT-97
Wilburne Farm
Barn #1
N.W. Corner

W.N. Spr. 76



CT-97
Wilburne Farm
Barn

W.N. Spring 76